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August 27, 2007

The Honorable James M. Derham
United States Ambassador to Guatemala
Embajada de los Estados Unidos de America
Avenida Reforma 7-01, Zona 10
Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala

Oscar Berger Perdomo
Presidente de la Republica de Guatemala
Casa Presidencial
6a Avenida, 4-18 Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

I am writing on behalf of several constituents who are currently attempting to adopt children from Casa Quivira Children's Home in Antigua. As both of you may be aware, on Saturday August 11, 2007, Casa Quivira was put under the direct control of the Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia (SBSP). Since the facility's takeover by SBSP workers, my constituents have raised several concerns regarding the fate of the Casa Quivira children they are attempting to adopt. While I strongly acknowledge that the government takeover is a solely internal Guatemalan matter, I kindly ask that my following concerns are addressed.

First, my constituents are concerned that the government takeover will impede their attempts to complete the adoption process. While I realize the government of Guatemala has grave concerns regarding the Casa Quivira facility, I ask that current adoptions be allowed to proceed in a timely and equitable fashion.

Secondly, several reports have surfaced claiming that the government takeover has jeopardized the health and safety of the Casa Quivira children. I am deeply troubled not only by allegations that SBSP workers have prevented the delivery of medicine, supplies, and specialized milk formulas to Casa Quivira, but also reports that on August 22, 2007, nine children were taken to the hospital with respiratory infections. While I know that these allegations may be false and I am sure that the Guatemalan government is doing everything in its power to ensure the health and wellbeing of the Casa Quivira children, I kindly ask that the Guatemalan Government take all possible steps to provide the children of Casa Quivira with the best care possible.

Finally, in the past several days, it has been reported that the children of Casa Quivira have been removed from the facility and transferred to other orphanages. Since the alleged transfers both my constituents as well as the United States State Department

of State have unsuccessfully tried to learn the whereabouts of these children. As a result, I ask for any information that you can provide regarding the whereabouts of the children.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barney Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARNEY FRANK